



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

## SPOT COMMENTARY

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## Opposition Confident of Victory, Milosevic Buying Time

The Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) has called on its supporters to take to the streets Monday evening to celebrate (DOS) presidential candidate Kostunica's election victory. The DOS claims that Kostunica is poised for a first-round victory, with its own preliminary count showing that he has 55 percent of the vote while FRY President Milosevic has only 34 percent. Belgrade Radio announced on Monday that the Federal Election Commission would release official results tomorrow at noon.

- The DOS announced that its unofficial estimate shows that Kostunica has 2.9 million votes versus Milosevic's 1.9 million. An opposition spokesman said that Milosevic needs to find more than 400,000 votes just to get to the second round.
- In the FRY parliamentary elections, the opposition is publicly claiming that the DOS has won 59 of the 108 seats in the lower house of the federal assembly, while the Serbian Socialist Party (SPS)-Yugoslav United Left (JUL) coalition has won 44 seats. In the upper house, the DOS claims it has won 10 seats, the left coalition has won 7, the Serbian Radical Party (SRS) has won 2, and Vuk Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO) has garnered one seat.
- In Serbian local elections, the DOS claims it has won 85 municipalities while the SPS-JUL coalition has won around 30, according to press reports.

Meanwhile, the ruling SPS publicly contends that Milosevic is leading Kostunica in the presidential race with 45 percent of the vote to Kostunica's 40 percent, and FRY Prime Minister Bulatovic claimed that the Socialist People's Party (SNP) gained 28 out of 30 Montenegrin seats in the lower house of parliament and 19 out of 20 in the upper house. Bulatovic said that just under 30 percent of Montenegrins participated in the elections—a figure disputed by the Montenegrin governing parties, which boycotted the vote.

- Nevertheless, a senior SPS official acknowledged that he "could not say with certainty" that Milosevic would win the presidential contest in the first round.
- The regime also admits that the SPS-JUL coalition has lost control at the local level in "certain municipalities."

Prepared by: DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force. Please direct any questions or comments to

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SPO leader Draskovic has publicly announced his intention to resign as party leader and SRS leader Seselj has offered to resign from unspecified leadership positions because of their respective parties' poor showing in the elections. *These probably represent face-saving gestures rather than genuine moves to retire at this point, but the announcements could signal a willingness by their leaders to align with Kostunica and the DOS should Milosevic decide to hold the second round of elections.*

- Draskovic congratulated Kostunica on his election victory and expressed disappointment with the SPO's showing in the elections, blaming himself for not cooperating with the DOS.
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